

Gift of Freedom To LOVE

July 7, 2024

Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

John 3:15-17

that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Our ability to love,
to love with God's love,
comes from the gift of our
salvation through Jesus Christ.

John 15:1-4

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

John 15:5-7

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

John 15:8-9

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

Remain – To abide, not to depart, be present

- **If you *remain* in me and I in you - bear much fruit**
- **If you do not *remain* in me – branch ... withered ...
thrown into the fire**
- **If you *remain* in me and my words (rhema – living voice) *remain* in you - ask ... will be done for you**
- **Now *remain* in my love**

Our ability to love others
flows through
remaining in Him.

John 15:10-12

If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

- **If you keep** – “attend to carefully, take care of”
- His **commands** – “an order, charge, precept (instruction, principle)
- **You will remain in His love**
- His command – **Love each other as I have loved you.**
- Jesus’ joy makes my **joy complete**

Our ability to love comes
out of listening, following His voice
... the result of listening and
following is being filled with
His joy.

John 15:13-14

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command.

John 15:15

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. 17 This is my command: Love each other.

Our ability to love others
Comes from our identity in
Christ, being chosen by Him.

This is my command: Love each other.

- Am I remaining, being present with God ... connecting with Him on a relational level?
- Am I obeying God, listening to His voice on a relational level?
- Have I forgotten who I am in Christ?
- Am I living from joy, His joy completing my joy?